

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Dassel-Cokato Independent School District #466 is proposing a single question bond referendum on April 18, 2017 that would authorize the issuance of bonds to finance the construction of additional building space and other facility upgrades at the middle/high school attendance center. The estimated cost of all projects, including bond issuance, is \$6,971,743.

The largest project component is a 10,690 square foot stand-alone structure to be constructed on the west side of the existing middle/high school. This new building would house an agricultural education shop, classroom and lab space as well as classrooms for an alternative learning center.

Proposed upgrades to the existing structure include: a middle school shop addition, upgrades to existing shop space, fire suppression upgrades and interior remodeling/repurposing of the media center as well as other instructional space.

The projects would be scheduled for completion in the 2017-2018 calendar years. Cost estimates by project type are as follows:

<u>New Ag / ALC building</u>		
Ag. Education Classroom / shops	5,390 Square Feet	\$ 1,450,000
Alternative Learning Center	5,300 Square Feet	<u>\$ 1,460,000</u>
		\$ 2,910,000
<u>Existing Faculty Upgrades</u>		
Middle School Shop Addition	1,200 Square Feet	\$ 660,000
Existing Shop Upgrades		\$ 1,620,000
Classroom Repurposing		\$ 1,020,000
Fire Suppression		<u>\$ 500,000</u>
		\$ 3,800,000
<u>Other Costs</u>		
Capitalized Interest		\$ 153,948
Bond Issuance Costs		<u>\$ 107,795</u>
		\$ 261,743

If the bond referendum is successful and bonds are sold, the debt service on the bonds will be eligible for debt service equalization under Minn. Stat. § 123B.53, subd. 3, if the bond schedule is approved. The amount of debt service equalization aid, if any, the district receives is determined annually and is dependent upon property wealth, student population, and other statutory requirements.

The school board believes the replacement of Tech High School and major improvements at Apollo High School are in the best long term interest of this district

REVIEW AND COMMENT STATEMENT

Based upon the department's analysis of the school district's required documentation and other pertinent information from sources of the Minnesota Department of Education, the Commissioner of Education provides a positive review and comment.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE

Persons desiring additional information regarding this proposal should contact the school district Superintendent's office.

Dr. Brenda Cassellius, Commissioner

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